



## **Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination**





## Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination

### INTRODUCTION

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This chapter describes the history of public involvement prior to and during the development of the *Draft Commercial Services Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. It summarizes coordination with federal and state agencies and tribal governments, and lists agencies, organizations and individuals that received copies of the document.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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Public involvement in the planning process helps to ensure that the National Park Service understands and considers the public's interests when considering alternatives and making decisions about public lands. Public involvement activities provide the means for the public to participate in the planning process, identify issues and alternatives, and express thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Public participation helps to identify the types of actions to be included in the plan, as well as the range of alternatives and impacts that should be addressed. In addition to public involvement during the commercial services planning process, extensive opportunities were offered to the public to comment on commercial services during the development of Glacier National Park's 1999 *General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (NPS 1990c). The comments submitted during that process were also considered during development of the *Draft CSP and Draft EIS*.

The following concerns were expressed by the public during the development of the *General Management Plan and EIS* that are relevant to the *Draft CSP and Draft EIS*:

#### ***Continue Current Access and Visitor Use***

An overwhelming majority of comments objected to the possibility of losing public access and visitor opportunities and strongly expressed a desire to keep the park "as it is." Most people want visitor facilities to be retained, including ... grand hotels and other lodging, and campgrounds. The majority said they would like other traditional uses of Glacier National Park to continue,...

#### ***Manage the Park to Protect Resources, While Allowing Visitor Use***

Most who commented about natural and cultural resources asserted that the park's

paramount priority should be to protect these invaluable assets and lessen the impact of visitation whenever possible. They went on to say that human use consistent with preserving these resources must continue, that people are now part of Glacier's ecosystem, and that habitat can be protected without keeping people out.

#### ***Preserve Wildlife Habitat***

Most respondents said that they believe that wildlife is central to a true Glacier National Park experience and that habitat should be preserved. Those who commented about wildlife also stressed the need to minimize interactions between animals and people.

#### ***Emphasize the Retention of Facilities In the Park***

Commenters said that removing facilities from inside the park and replacing them outside the park would result in a loss of valued traditional visitor experience. The public generally did not favor moving facilities outside the park. (NPS 1999c, 6-8)

### **SCOPING FOR THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES PLAN**

The scoping period for the *Draft CSP and Draft EIS* began with the publication of the "Notice of Intent" in the *Federal Register* on September 12, 2000. As part of the process, a scoping newsletter was made available to the public in November 2000, a Commercial Services Plan Web page was established, and five open houses were held in December 2000. The newsletter introduced the *Commercial Services Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, explained what commercial services are and what the plan would do, and reviewed decisions reached in the 1999 *General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* regarding commercial services. The newsletter also introduced the Commercial Services Plan Web page and invited the public to attend public open houses. Individuals or groups were also invited to share comments, concerns, and ideas by using the online response form or mailing comments to the park by December 30, 2000. Meetings were held with the Blackfeet Tribal Council, private landowners in Apgar and special interest groups.

The Commercial Services Plan Web page provided the public with information on the plan and planning process, identified opportunities for the public to provide comments and ideas, and made available an online comment form.

Open houses were held in Kalispell, Missoula, Great Falls, and Browning, Montana, and in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, in December 2000. Approximately 250 people attended.

**TABLE 5-1. PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES FOR THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES PLAN**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of People in Attendance</b>
Kalispell, MT	December 4, 2000	92
Missoula, MT	December 5, 2000	43
Great Falls, MT	December 6, 2000	25
Browning, MT	December 7, 2000	31
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada	December 7, 2000	56

Over 200 comments were received from the public during the scoping period. These comments were in the form of letters, Web site responses and comments recorded at open houses. In addition, notes on public comment at the public meetings were captured on flip charts and retained as part of the record. Public comments fell into several categories.

- **Lodging Facilities**

Respondents generally said that traditional lodging experiences are important to the character of Glacier National Park and that overnight accommodations should continue to be provided in the park. Most comments supported the rehabilitation of existing lodging facilities but objected to new development in the park. Generally, comments raised objections to an increased number of rooms for overnight accommodations, but suggested small expansions of currently developed areas, such as expansions of the cabins at Rising Sun and Swiftcurrent.

Respondents favored keeping the park as it is and rehabilitating the historic lodging facilities to reflect their primary motif. The public generally said that facilities should be rehabilitated but should maintain a rustic character with few added amenities.

- **General Visitor Services**

While the majority of respondents strongly objected to the commercialization of the park in general, many comments made specific suggestions regarding visitor services. Respondents suggested adding services, such as coin-operated laundry facilities, additional shower facilities, more convenience stations, picnic tables outside the cabins at Swiftcurrent, galleries for local arts and crafts, a small-scale food/drink service at Logan Pass, and expanded services in the North Fork area. Some comments also favored limited retail sales by more than one concessioner.

- **Natural Resources**

Most people who commented on natural resources said that the park's first priority should be to protect natural resources and lessen the impact of visitation while continuing to provide visitor services. Respondents expressed concern about impacts to wildlife, habitat loss, water quality, noxious weeds management, soil compaction, and noise pollution. Commenters also said that the park must be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

- **Affordability**

Many respondents expressed concern that visitor services and facilities would become too costly. They went on to say that some facilities, such as Swiftcurrent and Granite Park Chalet, should be kept affordable. Commenters were also concerned that park entrance fees would increase as a result of hotel rehabilitation.

- **Funding**

Comments expressed a wide range of opinions regarding rehabilitation funding. Suggestions to fund rehabilitation include using taxpayer money, increasing park fees or park lodging rates, using a percentage paid by the concessioner, using private money, and using National Park Service allocated funds.

- **Guided Activities**

Most people who commented on guided activities said that group size limits should be placed on all guided activities.

- **Transportation**

Several respondents suggested that a shuttle system should be implemented in the park. Many respondents said that they would like a shuttle system that would transport hikers and visitors between visitor service areas and trailheads within the park. Other respondents favored a shuttle system that would transport visitors from areas outside of the park into the park. Participants also said that they would like the park to keep the red bus tours and to make them affordable for everyone.

- **Horses**

The majority of people who commented on horse use support public and private horseback riding facilities in the park. Most respondents expressed a desire for the park to expand the horse trail system and provide more horse facilities at campgrounds and trailheads. Several comments suggested that horse campgrounds and trails should be kept separate from general campgrounds and trails, and a few comments suggested eliminating horse traffic on trails.

- **Employee Housing**

Of the few comments received regarding employee housing, all stated it should be placed outside of the park and that no new employee housing should be constructed inside the park.

- **Campgrounds**

Comments received regarding campground facilities reflected various opinions. While some commenters said that campgrounds should remain primitive and that no additional RV sites should be added, the majority of commenters expressed a desire for campgrounds to be upgraded and expanded. Respondents suggested providing more services in campgrounds, allowing more sites for RVs, revegetating campgrounds between sites to provide privacy, and providing camping in additional areas of the park. Commenters also indicated that campground rates are too high and should be kept commensurate with facilities/services provided.

- **Chalets**

Various comments were received regarding chalets. Most of these comments supported the continued operation of chalets as they are now with the option of using Granite Park Chalet as a hiker shelter and Sperry Chalet as a full service lodging facility. However, some commenters supported repairing Granite Park Chalet as a full service chalet. A few respondents expressed concern about the impacts of chalets on wildlife and said that chalets should be phased out completely.

- **American Indians**

Comments stated that American Indians should be involved in park interpretation and commercial services. Commenters also wanted to ensure that local tribes would be allowed to use the park for religious and cultural purposes.

- **Length of Season**

While many commenters expressed concern that an extended park season would adversely impact wildlife, other respondents supported off-season use of the park. Many respondents suggested that existing roads should be groomed in the winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. They also suggested that winterized day lodges should be operated in at least one location on the east

side of the park and one location on the west side of the park. One commenter also said that the park should be opened for therapeutic recreation programs during the winter.

- **Boats**

The majority of people who commented on boats said that they favor small-scale boat tours and the use of private boats on park lakes. Others suggested that limits should be placed on the amount of horsepower allowed in boats that can be used in motorized use areas and that the amount of guided float trips should be reduced.

- **Fishing**

One commenter said that lakes should be stocked with fish again.

- **Bicycling**

One commenter suggested that bicycle accessibility should be maximized in developed areas.

The *Draft Commercial Services Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement* will be made available to the public for a 60-day review and comment period. Public open houses and hearings will be held. Public comments will be used to complete the *Final Commercial Services Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* and reach a decision in the Record of Decision.

## **AGENCY COORDINATION**

Agency coordination is essential for the identification of potential environmental impacts of a project and its alternatives. It also provides information regarding other agency planning efforts and proposed plans for a project area that contributes to the analysis of cumulative impacts.

Agency coordination was accomplished through correspondence, telephone communication, and review of project-related materials. Letters were sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Additional meetings, review and discussion have occurred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Historic Preservation Office. All written correspondence received to date is contained in Appendix 5.

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## **RECIPIENTS OF THE *DRAFT COMMERCIAL SERVICES PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT***

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### **Elected Officials**

Max Baucus, United States Senate  
Conrad Burns, United States Senate  
Flathead County Commissioners  
Glacier County Commissioners  
Judy Martz, Governor of Montana  
Fred Matt, Chair, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council  
James St. Goddard, Acting Chair, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council  
Dennis Rehberg, United States House of Representatives

### **Federal Agencies**

Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor  
Flathead National Forest  
Kootenai National Forest, USDA, Supervisor's Office  
Lewis and Clark National Forest  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

### **Canadian Government Agencies**

Waterton Lakes National Park

### **State and Provincial Agencies**

Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
Montana State Clearinghouse  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

### **Organizations**

Anti-Cruelty Society  
Back Country Horsemen  
Browning Public County Library  
Coalition for Canyon Preservation  
Columbia Falls Branch Library  
Cut Bank Library  
Flathead Conventions Bureau  
Flathead County Library  
Flathead Economic Development Corporation  
Friends of the Bitterroot  
Glacier Country Regional Tourism Commission  
Glacier Natural History Association  
Glacier Park Associates  
Glacier Park Foundation  
Glacier-Waterton Visitor Association  
Great Falls Public Library  
Great Falls Tribune

Missoula Public Library  
 Montana Wilderness Association  
 Montanans for Multiple Use  
 National Parks Conservation Association  
 Partners in Parks  
 Trust for Public Lands  
 Whitefish Branch Public Library  
 Wild Wilderness  
 Wilderness Society, Northern Rockies Regional Office

#### **Concessioners**

Belton Chalets, Inc.  
 Glacier Park Boat Company  
 Glacier Park, Inc.  
 Glacier Wilderness Guides, Inc.  
 Mule Shoe Outfitters, LLC  
 Sun Tours  
 Waterton Inter-Nation Shoreline Cruise Company, Ltd.

A complete listing of agencies, organizations, public officials, and individuals who received a copy of the *Draft CSP and Draft EIS* is on file at Glacier National Park.

## **LIST OF PREPARERS**

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Responsibility/ Contribution</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Years Exper- ience</b>
<b>Architectural Research Consultants, Incorporated</b>			
John P. Petronis, A.I.C.P., A.I.A. Architect/Facility Planner	CSP Purpose and Need, Site Planning, Site Alternatives Planning	M. Business Administration M. Architecture	29 years
Robert W. Robie AIA Architect/Facility Planner	CSP Project Overview and Coordination	M. Architecture	28 years
Andy Aguilar, Facility Planner/ Intern Architect	CSP Site Analysis, Site Alternatives Planning	M. Architecture	19 years
Jennifer Abbott, Technical Editor	CSP/EIS Production	M.A. English	27 years
Bethann McVicker, GIS Specialist	CSP/EIS GIS and Mapping Production	B. S. Anthropology	9 years
Flo Padilla, Graphics Specialist	CSP/EIS Mapping Production	A. Architectural Drafting	14 years
Jay Petronis, Assistant Graphics Professional	CSP/EIS Computer Graphics and Site Plans	B.A. Fine Arts	10 years



Name and Title	Responsibility/ Contribution	Education	Years Exper- ience
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Edith Cherry, F.A.I.A., A.S.L.A. Architect, Landscape Architect	Historic Structures Reports and Cultural Landscape Reports	M. Architecture	37 years
<b>National Park Service—Glacier National Park</b>			
Mary Riddle Cornell, Environmental Protection and Compliance Specialist	Project Leader, Plan and EIS	B.S. Environmental Studies	19 years
Jan Knox, Chief, Concessions Management	Project Leader, CSP Statement, Prescriptions and Standards, Necessary and Appropriate Services	B.S. Business Administration	23 years
Fred Babb, Chief, Project Management	Project Leader, Site Design and Analysis	B.L.A. Landscape Architecture and Planning	36 years
Tara Carolin, Ecologist	EIS Document Review and Compilation	M.S. Wildlife and Range Resources	12 years
Dave Lange, Supervisory Biologist	EIS Document Review and Compilation	B.A. Wildlife Conservation	33 years
Jennifer Asebrook, Biological Sciences Technician	EIS Vegetation, Wetlands	M.S. Plant Ecology	13 years
Gordon Dicus, Biological Sciences Technician	EIS Vegetation, Wetlands, Aquatics	M.S. Wildlife Biology in Progress B.S. Biology	5 years
Kimberly D. Frymire, Biological Sciences Technician	EIS Vegetation	B.S. Biology B.A.E. Secondary Education	5 years
Steve Gniadek, Wildlife Biologist	EIS Wildlife	M.S. Wildlife Biology	31 years
Meg Hahr, Biological Sciences Technician	EIS Wildlife, Aquatics	M.S. Environmental Studies	6 years
Joyce Lapp, Supervisory Horticulturist	EIS Vegetation	B.S. Soils Science B.S. Horticulture	17 years
Dr. Leo F. Marnell, Senior Scientist	EIS Aquatics	Ph.D. Aquatic Ecology	30 years
William Michels, Biologist	EIS Aquatics	B.A. Park Administration	32 years
Rick Yates, Biological Science Technician	EIS Wildlife	M.S. Wildlife Biology	23 years
Richard Menicke, GIS Manager	GIS Mapping Support	M.S. Environmental Sciences	12 years

Name and Title	Responsibility/ Contribution	Education	Years Exper- ience
Lon Johnson Cultural Resources Specialist	Cultural Resources	B. Architecture	24 years
Jack Potter, Assistant Chief Resources Management	EIS Document Review	B.A. Political Science B.S. Forestry	34 Years
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Michael Burkett, A.I.A. Architect	CSP Site and Contextual Analysis and Design	B. Architecture	14 years
Paul Cavin, Intern Architect	CSP Site and Contextual Analysis	B.S. Concentration in Architecture	9 years
Lynn McClain, A.I.A. Architect	CSP Design, Planning, Presentation	B. Architecture	32 years
Patti Van Leer Presentation Specialist	CSP Graphics and Presentation	M. Architecture	19 years
<b>Johns A.S.L.A.</b>			
Robert Johns, A.S.L.A. Landscape Architect	CSP Site Analysis, Site Alternatives Planning	B. Landscape Architecture	43 years
<b>Land &amp; Water Consulting, Inc.</b>			
Barry Dutton, Certified and Registered Professional Soil Scientist	EIS Soils	M.S. Forestry and Soil Science in Progress B.S. Forestry	28 years
<b>Larry Read &amp; Associates</b>			
Larry D. Read, P.E. Civil Engineer	CSP Utilities	B.S. Civil Engineering	19 years
<b>Marron and Associates, Inc.</b>			
Ken Marron, Senior Environmentalist/ Planner	NEPA Specialist, EIS Project Overview	M.C.R.P. Environmental Planning	42 years
Shari Grossarth	EIS Project Leader, Environmental Consequences	B.S. Conservation Biology	4 years

## CONTRIBUTORS

### National Park Service—Glacier National Park

Michael Holm, Superintendent  
 Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent until Feb. 02  
 Pete Hart, Acting Superintendent, Feb. 02-August 02  
 Jerry O'Neal, Assistant Superintendent  
 Denis Davis, Assistant Superintendent until Feb. 02  
 Gayle Burgess, Park Architect  
 Jerry Burgess, Park Civil Engineer  
 Jack Gordon, Park Landscape Architect  
 Jack Polzin, Section 106 Review  
 Dave Dahlen, Chief of Interpretation  
 Bill Hayden, Interpretation

Dayna Hudson, Project Management Assistant  
John Kilpatrick, Chief, Acting Assistant Superintendent  
Bernadette Lovato, Concessions Management  
Karene Manus, Concessions Management

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**National Park Service–Intermountain Region**

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Chris Marvel, Lead Planner

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**WASO (National Park Service) Water Resources Division**

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Gary Smillie, Floodplains

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**Dornbusch & Company**

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Jason Bass, Economist

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John DeArment, Wetlands